

Mohave County Miner.

VOL. XXIX.

KINGMAN, ARIZONA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1916.

NO. 13

Importance of Mining Industry Shown by Analysis.

The mining industry is the second largest in the United States, being exceeded only by agriculture. The latter contributes annually 7,500,000,000 worth of wealth to the nation, while the mining industry contributes 2,000,000,000 worth a year. Mining furnishes 65 per cent of the freight traffic of the United States, and 3,000,000 persons out of an adult population at the last census of 21,000,000 are engaged in the work of mining, hauling and treating the mineral products of this country.

This brief survey of the magnitude of the mining industry of the United States gives an idea of how important an aid to commerce the newly created Bureau of Mines can be.

The West is studded with idle mills and smelters. They are found in every mining district and stand as monuments to ignorance and folly in mining, each a record of heavy financial losses to investors. The Bureau of Mines does not hope to galvanize all of these abandoned plants into activity, but it does expect to work out the problems of mining to an extent that will prevent future waste and loss in this industry from causes arising out of insufficient light on this complex subject. It proposes to change the character of mining from a wild gamble to a condition of safe and legitimate investment. It proposes to do this by lifting some of the less understood departments of metallurgy "from" their present partially understood reactions and haphazard application to the domain of something like an exact science.

Valuable discoveries have been made in recent years in the methods of treating minerals, but the applications of the new methods to different types of ores is little understood and the experiments made in the various parts of the mining regions by individual concerns have been costly, wasteful and often unsatisfactory in results. The Bureau of Mines proposes to bring to this industry an equipment and a talent that will solve these problems of concentration, separation and smelting of ores, which in the present uncertain state of things spell ruin to investors. Such an achievement would put on the market many low-grade ores and increase the value of that part of the nation's resources.

Another work upon which the Bureau of Mines is already engaged in its investigations of coal with a view to treating noncoking coals so that they can be used in mining, and with a view to utilizing for commerce the lower grades of lignite. Coals abound in the mining regions, but many will not coke, and thereby prevent fuller metallurgical development. The bureau is undertaking to supply a better knowledge of these coals; why they do not coke and what can be done in the way of treatment that will overcome the difficulty.

"Not only mining," says Dr. Holmes, the head of the bureau, "but manufacturing, which throughout the West must forever be based upon mineral products, will be enormously influenced and benefitted by the development of efficient methods of using the low-grade coals and lignite found so abundantly in that region, and still largely owned by the government. This work, like the coking investigations, was begun by the United States Geological Survey a few years ago and important progress was made. The work was suspended, but as a matter of fundamental importance it will be taken up again and carried forward."

The most substantial result that is expected from the Bureau of Mines is the checking of the enormous waste of our mineral resources. In this respect the United States is said to be the most profuse nation in history and what is really serious about the matter is already the most essential of mineral resources are threatened with exhaustion, and the country is yet in its infancy. It has been pointed out that, unlike the water supply, which comes and goes, and unlike agricultural production, which can be raised from the ground at will, the mineral resources

can be neither increased or reproduced. How extensive this waste is may be gathered from a few figures. The production of coal amounts to 500,000,000 tons per year; the waste of coal through loose mining methods, mine fires, etc., is 250,000,000 tons yearly. The annual production of mineral is 2,000,000,000, while the waste of mineral in connection with this production is 300,000,000 a year, or practically 1,000,000 of every working day.

An Arizona copper reduction plant loses 14 tons of copper in the tailings every day it operates, while losses of a Utah plant from this source are 180,000 a year. The Joplin district of Missouri loses in milling 30 to 40 per cent of the zinc which its mines yield. That alone is a loss of 1,250,000. Greater advances in the treating of gold and silver ores make the losses less in these metals, yet the progress in the extraction of gold and silver has not reached a point where it is possible to utilize the vast low grade wealth that lies still untouched in California, which has already produced nearly 50 per cent of the total gold production of the United States. It is the purpose of the Bureau of Mines to restore the mining industry everywhere by finding commercially profitable methods of working the low-grade ores.

One of the greatest mining engineers has summoned up the mining situation in the United States as it is today, in this terse manner:

"The fame of the West has been based upon her high-grade mines, but her great wealth lies in her low-grade mines, in the operation of which a difference of 50 cents a ton in mining or treatment charges, or what is equivalent, the saving of 50 cents a ton, means the difference between success and failure.

"Bonanza mining," this authority asserts, "is a thing of the past. Our future production of gold must come from the low-grade mines and we are to keep pace with other lines of production, that progress must be based upon the facts which underlie the methods of mining and reduction."

Unfortunately, when congress created the Bureau of Mines, it failed to appropriate more money than was necessary to continue the work of the technological division of the United States Geological Survey, and this work had principally to do with mine safety and fuel investigations. For mine accident investigations 310,000 was appropriated; for coal fuel investigations 100,000 was appropriated and former treatment investigations 10,000. It is clear that 10,000 will not go very far in the matter of solving the great problems of metallurgy and rehabilitation of low-grade mining. The solution of these problems can be accomplished by means of the best laboratory.—Denver Mining Record.

An Interesting Story.

The finding of a 10¢ gold piece of 1841, in one of his sluice boxes, by William Diestelhorst, who is dredging with a dip bucket on Clear Creek, recalls to old-timers the tale of the loss in that vicinity of a chest containing 40,000\$, and so far as known the solitary gold piece referred to is the only one obtained in all these years.

It is stated, and while almost legendary, is regarded as an actuality, that a band of Mormons, on crossing Clear Creek, in the vicinity of Horsetown, when the stream was running high, lost from the tailboard of their wagon, a chest containing 40,000\$ in gold pieces and owing to the state of the creek it was impossible then to recover any of the treasure and in the following spring when efforts were made towards the same end, all trace of the ford was gone and thousands of yards of gravel, sand and rock had flowed on over the vicinity.

Diestelhorst, who mined in the Sacramento river, moved into Clear Creek a decade or more ago and has diligently dredged with generally good results, but he is redoubling his energies since the discovery of the 10¢ piece.

Wednesday of this week the dredge operator called on McCoy Fitzgerald, who owns the ranch below the Horsetown placer field to pay a hay bill and proffered the 10¢ piece, remarking on

its unique history. Fitzgerald told Diestelhorst that he would accept the coin but also suggested that it was worth more than 10¢. Diestelhorst was satisfied to pay his bill as originally arranged and did so.

When Mr. Fitzgerald came to Redding and displayed the beautifully chased piece of early California coinage, he was promptly offered by one man 25¢ for it and by another 50¢.

In the early days of California it may be news to many of our readers to know that there being no mint in the state, government assayers coined the gold money and upon each piece the assayer who coined it placed his initials. The coin in the possession of Mr. Fitzgerald bears the initials "S. M. V." and round the rim is printed "California gold." The piece is very chaste, and having little, if any alloy in it, retains the dull yellow color so peculiar to the gold of this state.—Redding Cal. Free Press.

Will Fence Big Grant.

Dr. E. B. Perrin and brother Robt. Perrin, accompanied by L. B. Perrin, a prominent railroad man from Twin Falls, Idaho, were recently looking over the Babacomari land grant, owned by the Perrins. Mr. Perrin is interested in heavy irrigation projects and power sites in the northwest, and came to look over the possibilities of the land grant. Mr. Perrin looked over the site that the government surveyed for a reservoir years ago, but was not much impressed with it. In fact as an irrigating proposition he turned it down, but was very much enthused over the stockraising possibilities. Last week Mr. Perrin accompanied by Mr. E. G. Gifford, who is recognized authority on agriculture and stockraising, and who is a graduate of the Wisconsin State Agriculture school, made another trip over the land, and immediately left for Chicago. When asked as to what he expected to do with the grant, Mr. Perrin replied that the first step he would take would be to fence the entire tract, and afterwards stock it with cattle or sheep. The Babacomari land grant embraces all the land lying from about five miles west of Fairbank, continuing west to Huachuca from where it takes to the river and includes all the water where the river heads, and extends into and includes the head of the Sonora river in Santa Cruz county, a distance of 24 miles by three miles wide. The fencing will require the expenditure of at least ten thousand dollars.—Tombstone Prospector.

Boise King Placer Co.

Arthur W. Stevens, a prominent mining engineer of Boise, Idaho, was in Salt Lake last week on his way east, where he will attend to several important matters connected with the mining industry of our sister state.

Mr. Stevens is manager for the Boise King Placer company owning a large area of valuable gold placer ground in Elmore county, on the Middle Fork of Boise river. This section is noted the world over because of its wonderful gold placers, from which millions have been taken in the early history of placer mining in that region.

The Boise King company has acquired 640 acres of land of Middle Fork, of which 480 acres is gold-bearing, the auriferous deposit having an average depth of forty feet, and going from 20 to 31 cents in gold to the cubic yard. Two small ditches, with two No. 2 giants have been in successful operation on the company's property in the past, but, early in the spring a seven-mile ditch and flume will be constructed and eight or ten No. 4 giants will be installed, the water to be used being taken from the Boise river. The flume will give a head of at least 200 feet, on any part of the diggings, and the pipe-line will be forty inches in diameter at the head, and eleven inches at the intake of the giants. It is expected that sluicing operations will begin by August 1st, next, when the giants will be ready for action.

The property of the company is located in a most attractive region; heavy timber abounds, and there is water almost everywhere. Big game is abundant, including deer and mountain sheep. It is an ideal place in which to spend the summer, and is Midas-touched with gold.

A portion of the holdings of the company embrace the old Stadenburg placers from which, by primitive methods, a production estimated at 125,000\$ to 250,000\$ has been recorded.

George W. Danley, of Salt Lake, with office in the McIntyre block, is the local representative for the company.—Salt Lake Mining Review.

Forty Eight Millions Is Goldfields Output.

With the close of the year 1910, Goldfield's total production will have reached approximately 48,000,000\$, the production up to the beginning of the year being about 36,000,000\$ while a conservative estimate of the output for 1910 gives about 12,000,000\$ to be added to it. This remarkable showing is the best possible evidence of the mar-

vellous riches of the camp, which seven years ago was naught but a bleak, wind-swept spot on the sagebrush-covered desert.

Year by year the production has increased, the mines have given added evidence of their greatness and stability with depth, and new confidence is given in its future by the fact that in the deepest workings of the Consolidated, 1000 feet vertical and about 1600 feet on the dip of the veins, the ore is as rich and prolific as at any place in the workings of this wonderful property.

Goldfield has paid in dividends to date the magnificent sum of 23,249,523\$, 7,118,196\$ of which has been paid during the present year by the Goldfield Consolidated company in 1910. To these figures will be added at least 1,780,000\$ by the declaration of another quarterly dividend by the directors of the Consolidated company at their meeting in New York City December 1.

Approximately 50 per cent of the total production of the camp has been paid to stockholders as dividends, a record heretofore unknown in the annals of mining.

The year 1911 will undoubtedly see a large increase in the amount of dividends from this camp for twelve months, as the Consolidated will at least maintain its present rate, and the Florence can be expected to resume regular quarterly disbursements before many months.

To the present mining activity will doubtless be added many more working properties and a number of good producers, which will greatly increase the production of the coming year over the splendid record that will be hung up during 1910 as a mark for the world to gaze in admiration and amazement.—Goldfield Tribune.

The Kendall Mining company, operating at Kendall, Mont., has paid its 71st dividend at the rate of two cents a share, or 10,000\$. This is the second paid recently, a like amount having been distributed on September 22. The total of dividends paid to date is 1,305,000\$. The capitalization is 500,000\$. The Kendall mine has not been shut down since its mill went into operation fifteen years ago. Finch & Campbell, of Spokane, own the controlling interest.—Salt Lake Mining Review.

The finest line of holiday goods ever received in Kingman will be put on display at the Pioneer Drug Store early in December.

DR. PRICE'S Cream Baking Powder

Its superiority is unquestioned

Its fame world-wide

Its use a protection and a guarantee
against alum food

The low-grade powders are made from "phosphate alum," or "sodium aluminum sulphate," which is also alum, a mineral acid, and that makes the food unhealthy.

One pound of the imitation (25c.) powders contains five ounces of alum, a mineral poison.

Food baked with alum baking powders is found to contain a portion of the alum unchanged.

The continued use of alum made food impairs digestion, causing dyspepsia. The careful housewife when buying baking powder, will examine the label and take only a brand whose label shows the powder to be made from cream of tartar.

Read the Label